Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 L-03 SS-15 SP-02

AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /046 W ------ 084075

R 131230Z JAN 76 FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7707

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BDIS ET

SUBJECT: MANDRELL INDUSTRIES TAX PROBLEMS

REF: AAO 75 ADDIS ABABA 14085

- 1. GEORGE GLASCOE, LAST EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEE OF MANDRELL INDUSTRIES BEING HELD IN ETHIOPIA PENDING RESOLUTION OF COMPANY'S TAX PROBLEMS, VISITED EMBASSY JAN 13. IN CONVERSATION WITH COMMERICAL ATTACHE, GLASCOE HINTED THAT HE WAS LOOKING ABOUT FOR MEANS TO FLEE ETHIOPIA. GLASCOE DID NOT STATE HIS INTENTIONS BUT STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT MANDRELL HAD GIVEN UP ANY POSSIBILITY OF RECEIVING FAIR TREABMENT IN TAX CASE AND THAT IF GLASCOE COULD GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY, THE FIRM WOULD WALK AWAY FROM TAX APPEALS DISPUTE.
- 2. COMMERCIAL ATTACHE WARNED GLASCOE THAT IF HE FLED, HE WOULD FACE CONSIDERABLE DANGER OF BEING CAUGHT WHICH WOULD ONLY COMPLICATE MANDRELL'S AND HIS PERSONAL PROBLEMS. EMBASSY STILL BELIEVES THAT MANDRELL SHOULD FOLLOW LEGAL APPEAL PROCESS AND ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE SETTLEMENT WITH EPMG. EFFECT OF POSSIBLE FLIGHT, SUCCESSFUL OR OTHERWISE, BY GLASCOE UPON OTHER AMERICAN FIRMS OPERATING IN ETHIOPIA AND ON THE US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS COULD BE SERIOUS.
- 3. GIVEN MANDRELL' APPARENT LACK OF INTEREST IN DOING ANY FUTURE BUSINESS IN ETHIOPIA, THE FIRM'S SHORT TERM VIEW MAY BE THAT THEY HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BY SMUGGLING GLASCOE OUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE COUNTRY. THOMAS CAREY OF GEYSOURCES (MANDRELL'S

PARENT COMPANY) HAD HINTED DURING DEC 2 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR THAT FIRM MIGHT ATTEMPT TO GET GLASCOE OUT OF ETHIOPIA. IN VIEW OF THE BROADER US INTEREST, HOWEVER, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS DEPT CONTACT MANDRELL TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER ANY POSSIBLE FLIGHT BY GLASCOE AND SUGGEST THE FIRM CONSIDER SENDING A FRESH REPLACEMENT WHO MIGHT BE BETTER ABLE THAN GLASCOE TO COPE WITH ADMITTEDLY FRUSTRATING SITUATION HERE AND FOLLOW CONTINUING SLOW TAX APPEALS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 13 JAN 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ADDIS00434

Document Number: 1976ADDIS00434
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D760013-0180 From: ADDIS ABABA Handling Restrictions: n/a Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760164/aaaaceqg.tel Line Count: 70 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION AF

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Classification: Life De Predions Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ADDIS ABABA 14085
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 23 JUN 2004

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <25 JUN 2004 by morefirh>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MANDRELL INDUSTRIES TAX PROBLEMS

TAGS: BDIS, ET To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006